

Applicants : Robert A. De Jonge et al.  
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### REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Applicants request a two-month extension of time, and a separate petition for a two-month extension and a check in the amount of \$450.00 are enclosed.

The Office Action of July 20, 2006 states that the present application includes the following patentably distinct species and subspecies:

Species I: Figs. 1-5  
Species II: Figs. 6-8  
Species III: Fig. 12  
Species IV: Figs. 17 and 18  
Species V: Figs. 21 and 22  
Species VI: Figs. 23-25  
Species VII: Figs. 26-32  
Species VIII: Figs. 35-38

Sub-Species I: Fig. 13  
Sub-Species II: Fig. 14  
Sub-Species III: Fig. 15  
Sub-Species IV: Fig. 16  
Sub-Species V: Fig. 16A

Applicants elect Species I (Figs. 1-5), and Sub-Species I (Fig. 13). Claims 1-7, 12, 14, 15, 19-33, 35-37, 51-60, 62-69, 75-94, 110-124 and 139-153 read on the elected species.

Applicants note that restriction is only proper between mutually exclusive species. MPEP 806.04(f). Claims are mutually exclusive if one claim recites limitations disclosed for a first species but not a second, while a second claim recites limitations disclosed only for the second species and not the first.

The shifter of Figs. 1-5 may include the solenoid of Figs. 35-38 and the solenoid is not therefore a mutually exclusive species. Accordingly, Applicants assert that the claims reciting features of the solenoid of Figs. 35-38 are not a separate species from the shifter of Figs. 1-5.

Similarly, the shifter of Figs. 1-5 may include a manual release as shown in Fig. 9 (not listed as a species in the Office Action of July 20, 2006), and the manual release is therefore not a species.

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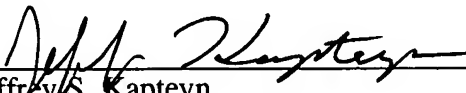
Similarly, the shifter of Figs. 1-5 may include the backup electrical power supply (claim 110), the keyless ignition (claim 120), and the security signal arrangement (claim 150). Accordingly, these features are not believed to be distinct species.

Applicants have made a concerted effort to place the present application in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. In the event there are any remaining informalities, the courtesy of a telephone call to the undersigned attorney would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

10/20/06

  
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Jeffrey S. Kapteyn  
Registration No. 41 883  
Price, Heneveld, Cooper, DeWitt & Litton, LLP  
695 Kenmoor, S.E.  
Post Office Box 2567  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501  
(616) 949-9610

JSK/cmu